

25 November 2006

The Visual Tracking class conducted by Mike Vaught, David Reeder and the Centurion Training Group Staff at the Osage Hill State Park greatly fine-tuned my tracking skills as a Sniper in the U.S. Army. I can say the same for my Soldiers to whom I passed the knowledge on to by conducting the same classroom instruction and hands-on training back in Ft. Hood, TX that I received from David and Mike. Their dedication and determination to pass on their tracking skills and experience to Soldiers preparing for deployment makes us better trained and knowledgeable for combat tracking—which any Sniper or Recon Scout knows that tracking is a vital part of the his job, and can lead to the success of the mission whether it be in the desert, forest or urban environment. It can mean life or death when evading an armed enemy, or tracking down a known terrorist on the run.

In the military at this time there is no formal tracking school. A 1-hour class is offered at the Sniper School, but there is no hands on instruction, leaving Soldiers somewhat uninformed and not comfortable doing the training without a qualified instructor. I have passed on the word to my fellow Snipers in Ft. Hood that the clas I attended is a must prior to deployment. And now the need for Snipers and Scouts to learn the tracking skills is more important than ever. The chain of command has our support for the training, we just need a place to train and instructors to train us. Which Mike and David have so graciously offered to do. The U.S. Army if forever indebted to people like Mike and Dave and their other cadre who offer their time and knowledge to help Soldiers out on the brink of deployment.

Sincerely,  
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